



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/067,179	02/04/2002	Edward B. Devine	8392-69554	4895

23643 7590 08/21/2003

BARNES & THORNBURG
11 SOUTH MERIDIAN
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

EXAMINER

HAMMOND, BRIGGITTE R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2833

DATE MAILED: 08/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
10/067,179

Applicant(s)
Devine Edward

Examiner
Brigitte R. Hammond

Art Unit
2833



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jun 30, 2003
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 23-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 23-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on Feb 4, 2002 is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 2 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 2833

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to applicant's restriction election received on June 30, 2003 and filed as Paper No. 4. Applicant's election of species III, claims 1-7 and 23-27 without traverse and the cancellation of claims 8-22 and 28 is acknowledged.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because the insulator and the sealing members are not properly crosshatched. Any portions of the drawings in section and made of an insulative material must be crosshatched accordingly. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1,4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Koolman 6,109,964. Koolman discloses an device comprising a hollow body forming an outer conductor 30, an inner conductor 20 extending through the outer conductor, one end of the inner and outer conductors define a signal input of the device, the other end of the inner and outer conductors

Art Unit: 2833

defining a signal output of the device, an electrical insulator 23 disposed between and watertight sealed to the inner and outer conductors by seals 62 and 63 (see col 7, lines 8-13).

Regarding claim 4, Koolman discloses the a first sealing member 62 positioned between the insulator and the outer conductor and a second sealing member 63 positioned between the insulator and the inner conductor creating the watertight seal therebetween.

Regarding claim 5, the outer surface of the insulator of Koolman defines a first channel extending completely around an outer periphery of the insulator in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the body wherein the first sealing member 62 is disposed therein.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koolman in view of Vaccaro et al. 5,154,636 or alternatively Lundback et al. 6,133,532. Koolman discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for the insulator having an inner surface that defines a second channel and the second sealing member being disposed therein. However, Vaccaro et al. teaches an insulator 24 having an inner surface that defines a second channel and a second sealing member being disposed therein (not numbered, see fig. 3). Therefore it would have been

Art Unit: 2833

obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify the device of Koolman by providing the insulator with an inner surface that defines a channel for the sealing member as taught by Vaccaro et al.

Should issues arise, such change is further obvious in view of Lundback et al. which also shows an insulator having an inner surface that defines a second channel and the second sealing member being disposed therein.

Regarding claim 7, the first and second sealing members of Koolman are flexible sealing rings.

7. Claims 1-3 and 23-27 are rejected under 35-U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA) as disclosed in fig 2. in view of Koolman'. AAPA

discloses in combination a transmission line 18 having attached thereto a first connector 16

configured for connection to a second connector associated with an antenna signal source 14.

AAPA does not disclose a fluid blocking device at one end of the connector comprising inner and

outer conductors separated by an insulator. However, Koolman discloses a fluid blocking device

comprising an outer conductor 30 and an inner conductor 20, said conductors are separated by

an insulator 23 watertight sealed to the inner and outer conductors by seals 62 and 63 (see col 7,

lines 8-13). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify the device of

AAPA by providing a fluid blocking device comprising inner and outer conductors and a

watertight seal to provide a moisture barrier as taught by Koolman.

Regarding claims 2 and 24, AAPA discloses an antenna as the signal source 14.

Art Unit: 2833

Regarding claims 3 and 25, AAPA discloses another transmission line 22 as a signal source.

Regarding claim 26, Koolman discloses the a first sealing member 62 positioned between the insulator and the outer conductor and a second sealing member 63 positioned between the insulator and the inner conductor creating the watertight seal therebetween.

Regarding claim 27, the first and second sealing members of Koolman are flexible sealing rings.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Nelson 5,938,474 and 6,019,635.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brigitte R. Hammond whose telephone number is (703) 305-0032.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley, can be reached on (703) 308-2319. Papers may be faxed directly to Group 2833 at (703) 305-3432.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Brigitte R. Hammond

P. Bradley
P. AUSTIN BRADLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800